

**REMARKS**

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete the multiple dependencies of claims 4 and 5, thereby placing such claims in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee.

A copy of the amended portion of the claims with changes marked therein is attached and entitled "*Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.*"

Respectfully submitted,

Inge JOHANSEN et al.

By   
Michael S. Huppert  
Registration No. 40,268  
Attorney for Applicants

MSH/kjf  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
December 18, 2001

Version with Markings to  
Show Changes MadeVersion with Markings to  
Show Changes Made

## Claims

1. Equipment for continuous, horizontal casting of metal, in particular aluminium, the equipment including an insulated reservoir or pool (2), which is designed to contain liquid metal, and a mould (3), which can be removed from the pool (2), with an insulating plate (19) with holes (25, 26) which communicate with the mould, the mould (3) including a preferably circular cavity (17) with a wall (12, 13) of permeable material for the supply of oil and at least one annular slit or nozzles (16) arranged along the circumference of the cavity for the direct supply of coolant,

**characterised in** that in addition to the oil gas is supplied through the permeable material (12,13) and that annuli (20) are arranged between the permeable wall material and the mould housing (8) to distribute the gas/oil to the wall material where the annuli (20) is divided into sectors using plugs or similar restrictions (21) and are supplied with oil/gas via separate supply channels (10, 11) for each sector, thus making it possible to differentiate the supply of oil/gas around the circumference.

2. Equipment in accordance with claim 1,

**characterised in** that the wall material comprises two rings (10, 11) which are physically separated by means of a gasket (18) or similar.

3. Equipment in accordance with claim 1,

**characterised in** that each of the annuli (20) are split into two sectors, and upper and lower sector.

4. Equipment in accordance with the preceding claims 1-3,

**characterised in** that the gas is supplied through the permeable material (through 12) in the area closer to the plate 19, while the oil is supplied through the material in the area further from (through 11) the plate (19).

5. Equipment in accordance with the preceding claims 1-4,

**characterised in** that a drainage bore or channel (29) is provided in the upper part of the mould cavity to drain out excess gas.